

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

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Planning Vacancies

Honolulu

The Honolulu Engineer District has a current vacancy for an Interdisciplinary GS-xxx-12, project manager (PM) in the Civil and Public Works Branch, Programs and Project Management Division. The position may be filled with qualified candidates within the Army and also non-status individuals from the following series: 0110, 0193, 0401, 0801, 0808, 0810, 0819, 1301, and 0020.

The duties consist of plan formulation and project management for civil works projects and selected interagency service projects. The individual is expected to be familiar with civil works processes

and exert leadership skills for the Project Delivery Team, establish the PMP, coordinate with customers, monitor expenditure and milestone compliance, write briefing papers, report to the PRB, draft agreements, write and formulate decision documents, oversee completion of design and construction work, and related work.

The district has a variety of navigation, shore protection, ecosystem restoration, and flood control work. Its AOR includes the State of Hawaii, territories of Guam and American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. TDY is required. The duty station is at Fort Shafter, Oahu, an Army installation with plenty of parking. All federal employees receive tax-free 25% COLA. The weather is great and the people are famous for the aloha spirit. Look for both the DEU or Army announcements at the personnel website: <http://www.cpol.army.mil>. The supervisor may be contacted at paul.mizue@usace.army.mil.

Sacramento District

The Sacramento District will be advertising a GS-12 Regional Economist position shortly. The economist will manage a number of studies being conducted simultaneously on various timetables. Duties include the mentoring of lower-graded employees on economic studies for various water projects throughout portions of several states in the western U.S. (California, Utah, Nevada). Projects subject to economic analysis vary in complexity from conventional construction of levees to major construction projects of multipurpose dams. Sacramento, the capitol of California, has a population of approximately 425,000 and is located in the Central Valley. The Sacramento metropolitan area has a population in excess of one million. Summers are hot and dry; winters, during which most of the rainfall occurs, are moderate in temperature. Housing for rent or purchase is readily available. For additional information, contact Daniel Herman, Chief of Economics Branch, in the Sacramento District at (916) 557-6736. [📖](#)

Johns Hopkins' Masters Program for Water Resource Development

Pat Mutschler - CECW-PC

I am the first student in the new Corps of Engineers Master's Program that was developed this summer in conjunction with the University Council on Water Resources (UCOWR) I have been with the Corps for nearly 15 years, serving in two districts, IWR and now in Headquarters. I am a planner and economist and I do not have another Master's degree. I have been looking to get a master's degree, but could not find a program that I thought was going to really be applicable to what I do in the Corps. I jumped at the opportunity to participate in the new program the Corps developed. I am attending Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.


The first thing I realized is that I have been out of school WAY too long! I am taking only four classes this term. I had intended on taking five, as recommended by the program outline, but there were a few glitches in class schedules for me. The program is perfect for scientists and engineers who have been working in their chosen field. The biggest hurdle for me is relearning the calculus I took 20 years ago! I have a limited background in higher math (although I am strong in statistics) and no science at the college level. These are shortcomings that I will have to overcome to be successful in the program. The courses I am taking include Economic Foundations, Ecology, History of Environmental Thought and Water

Resource Development. I believe that my background is similar to many other planners who may be interested in this program.

In order to prepare for the program, I would recommend that potential applicants who have only a limited background in calculus take a refresher class at their local community college. I am planning on taking differential calculus and linear algebra outside of the program before I proceed with the mathematical modeling class, which is a requirement. I also recommend that for students who have no background in science, that they take a basic physics or fluids class. My advisor is strongly recommending that I take Hydrology as one of my electives. I am looking forward to the class, but I know I will have to work to keep up with the other students who are engineers and earth scientists. On the other hand, I am doing very well in the classes that require lots of reading, writing and presentations!

I was nervous about going back to school with large groups of “twenty-somethings”. The angst was unfounded. I am enjoying the broad diversity of students. In one class the students come from at least three different continents, we were born in (at best guess) five different decades, we have undergraduates, masters’ students and an eighth year PhD student! We all bring different life experiences and skill sets to the discussions, which makes for fascinating and lively debate!

The folks at Hopkins have been terrific! The professors and support staff have gone out of their way to make me feel welcomed in the college community. One of their true strengths is their interdisciplinary approach to education. The Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering (DOGEE), which is the host department for the Corps program, strongly encourages students to participate in seminars that are outside their limited scope of interest. They also encourage students to take courses that will balance their academic background. As an economist, I am being encouraged to take science and engineering electives. Engineers are encouraged to take electives in the social or natural sciences. The cross training can only produce better and stronger planners! I strongly encourage folks to seriously consider applying to the program for next year. If you have any questions about the program, you can contact me this semester at mutschlerp@aol.com.

[Ed. Note: For more information on the Masters program visit:
<http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/iwr/planningcapabilities/degree.htm>] 

Upper Mississippi River Illinois Waterway System Navigation Feasibility Study

Rich Worthington – CECW-PD


The restructured Upper Mississippi River Illinois Waterway System Navigation Feasibility Study that was resumed in August of 2001 is serving as a nationally visible demonstration project for concepts of environmental sustainability, collaborative planning, and addressing uncertainty in navigation project economic analysis through scenario-based analysis. The framework for completing the study is contained in an Interim Report completed in July 2002. The lessons-learned in the Upper Mississippi study will likely have significant application to the entire Corps planning program.

Environmental Sustainability. The feasibility study has been fundamentally restructured to address the recommendations of the National Research Council. The restructured study will not only address the navigation efficiency needs of the system but also address the ongoing effects of navigation and the needs for ecosystem restoration with a goal of an environmentally sustainable navigation system.

Alternative plans will be developed by combining measures representing progressive levels of navigation investment in both non-structural and structural measures and progressive levels of investment in meeting identified restoration goals and objectives. These navigation and environmental measures will be combined into alternative plans and the economic and environmental performance of these plans will be evaluated.

Collaborative Process. A collaborative process has been applied in restarting the restructured navigation study. An important aspect of this collaboration is the Federal Principals Group that was established to assist the Corps in formulation of guidance for the study, oversight, and Washington level coordination. In addition to the Corps the Principals Group consists of senior level representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and Maritime Administration. The Federal Principals Group helped formulate the guidance for the study restart and endorsed the framework for study completion in the Interim Report. Collaboration has also been emphasized on the regional level to include other Federal agencies, state agencies, the public, and economic and environmental non-government organizations. A strong internal vertical team supports the external collaboration.

Scenario-Based Analysis. A scenario-based approach is being employed to address the uncertainty of forecasting transportation demand 50 years into the future. This approach was suggested by the Federal Principals Group and represents a range of plausible alternative views of the demand for waterway traffic on the system. A set of drivers was developed including world trade, crop area, crop yield and consumption. These drivers were varied with respect to trends, policies, conditions, and events that could impact the U.S. agricultural sector export market. Each of these scenarios represents a “without project” condition that will be used in evaluating alternative plans in the feasibility study. The process should provide decision makers the information needed to make an informed recommendation on implementation of modifications to the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway system. Criteria that would be used by decision makers include the degree to which the alternative plan or combination of alternative plans contribute to national economic development and national ecosystem restoration under a range of scenarios, the relative risk of selecting or not selecting the plan, the degree to which the plan is supported by a wide range of interests, and the flexibility and adaptability of the plan.

The current schedule calls for completion of the feasibility report in 2004. We will provide periodic reports in *Planning Ahead* on the study process. 


Draft Civil Works Strategic Plan

Donna Ayres - IWR

A new draft version of the Civil Works Program Strategic Plan has been completed. This plan promotes a vision of a Civil Works Program that contributes to the sustainability of our Nation’s water and related land resources in ways that:

- Preserve, protect, and restore ecosystem health
- Promote economic vitality
- Protect and promote quality of life.

A key theme of the plan is sustainability of our Nation’s water resources. We seek to orient the Civil Works Program to an approach that facilitates sustainable development through integrated management of our Nation’s water resources at a watershed scale.

Please take the time to view the web site at <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/iwr/strategicplan.htm> and this dramatic change to the management of the Nation's water resources. It is also located on the Corps website under HOT TOPICS. 

Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 - Update


Ellen Cummings – CECW-PD

The Estuary Habitat Restoration Council had its fourth meeting 23 January 2002. Mr. Izzo, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) chaired the meeting of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council on 28 August 2002. The Council accepted the minutes of the 22 May 2002 meeting (attached). Ms. Kathi Bangert, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, summarized the public comments received on the draft strategy and the changes to the draft that the work group proposed. The Council approved the strategy as revised by the work group. Ms. Amy Zimmerling, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration, presented the project proposal and selection criteria developed by the workgroup. The Council directed some minor changes and decided to submit the strategy and draft proposal to OMB for transmittal to the Authorization and Appropriations Committees of Congress prior to release to the public. Next steps were briefly discussed and the work group was directed to develop a communications plan, prioritize future work items and lay out a schedule for the next two years to be reported at the next meeting. Mr. Darrell Brown, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, gave a brief presentation on the National Estuary Program.

Thank you for the comments you provided on the strategy. If you have not already read the Act, I think you will find it interesting. There is a link to the law on the website <http://www.usace.army.mil/estuary.html>. Many of the comments received on the strategy took issue with items in the law and therefore could not be addressed in the revision of the strategy. For example, the focus of the Act is clearly on restoration and the definition of “Estuary Habitat Restoration Activity” limits what may be funded under the Act.

Other comments requested more information about the implementation of the program. Programmatic guidance will be released separately and is still being developed. The program guidance will likely draw on elements of the Corps’ environmental CAP programs, as well as the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act program. By law, Non-Federal sponsors are to develop the initial proposals. These will be reviewed by the Council, or by some group for the Council, and the Council will recommend projects to fund in priority order. The Secretary (Corps) will then pick projects from that list to fund. There will be a cost sharing agreement and other Council agencies may be the lead on some projects.

FY 2003 funding remains uncertain. We understand that the House Appropriations committee may have included \$1 million for implementation. However since the Senate bill did not include funding, a final decision would require conference action.

National Estuaries Day is 5 October 2002. NOAA and EPA are sponsoring a number of events including an interactive Web broadcast on 3 and 4 October for classroom use. Check out the planned activities at <http://www.estuaries.gov>. 

The Year of Clean Water


Beverley B. Getzen, CECW-PD

Celebrations for the Year of Clean Water are beginning soon. Among the events planned is Youth Watershed Summit, co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and America's Clean Water Foundation. Students and their teachers from every state and territory, plus some tribes, will participate in a variety of activities centered at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center at Edgewater, MD. Events begin on 6 October and end on 10 October. Students will undertake a number of experiments and investigations to learn more about watersheds, estuaries, wetlands, various estuarine and wetland species, and forest ecology. They will be joined by Astronaut Roger Crouch who will make a presentation entitled: "Out of this World: NASA's perspective on Global Water Resources."

On the 10th of October, the group will travel to the District of Columbia to tour the Smithsonian Museums and to hear presentations from key agency leadership, including Major General Van Winkle from the Corps and Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher from NOAA.

Another key event is National Water Quality Monitoring Day on 18 October. This is intended to bring professional water quality monitoring agencies, organized volunteer monitoring organizations and first-time citizen monitors together to conduct a day of monitoring to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Measurements of temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and clarity/turbidity will be taken and reported. The Chief of Engineers has asked that our districts, divisions, labs and centers become active in this endeavor. Hosting or partnering on an event is an excellent opportunity to get students and communities involved in our lakes and rivers while earning some positive press.

To date, there are nine Corps installations that are planning to participate. These are: Mobile, Chicago, St. Louis, Little Rock, Norfolk, San Francisco, Ft. Worth, Buffalo Districts; and ERDC/WES in Vicksburg. If your office plans to participate, please log onto the website and register your location. Let's cover the US Map with dots to demonstrate widespread support!

These and other events are all described at the website: <http://www.yearofcleanwater.org/> For additional information, contact Beverley.b.getzen@usace.army.mil 

Heinz Center Report on the State of the Nation's Ecosystems Now Available

Beverley B. Getzen, CECW-PD

The State of the Nation's Ecosystems report, which was released on 24 September 2002, identifies major gaps in what is known about the nation's lands, waters, and living resources and proposes periodic reporting of key indicators that will inform and influence policy discussions for generations to come.

The highly anticipated report by The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment is a succinct and comprehensive--yet unbiased and scientifically sound--examination of the current state of the nation's lands, waters, and living resources. An unprecedented collaboration among

nearly 150 experts from government, business, environmental organizations, and academia, the study identifies indicators and reports the best available data on conditions and trends.

The State of the Nation's Ecosystems: Measuring the Lands, Waters, and Living Resources of the United States presents a compelling argument for reporting environmental indicators, much as key data are reported to help gauge the state of the national economy.

The report provides indicators for the nation as a whole and for its coasts and oceans, forests, farmlands, fresh waters, grasslands and shrublands, and urban and suburban areas. For each of these systems, the study reports on ten key characteristics of ecosystems that should be tracked over time, and, where the data are available, it describes current conditions and trends. The ten categories, characterized by about 100 indicators in all, are listed below.

Ecosystem extent - Gains or losses in the area covered by a particular ecosystem

Fragmentation and landscape pattern - Size, shape, proximity and other patterns of how ecosystems are arranged on the landscape

Building blocks of life - Amounts and concentrations of key chemicals (nitrogen, phosphorous, carbon, and oxygen) that play vital roles in ecosystems

Contaminants - The extent of chemical contamination, as well as the frequency with which contaminant levels exceed regulatory standards and advisory guidelines

Physical conditions - The condition of important physical characteristics of a particular ecosystem, such as coastal erosion or the depth to groundwater


Plants and animals - The presence and condition of native and non-native species of plants and animals

Biological communities - The condition of groups of plants and animals that form the "biological neighborhood" for other species

Plant growth and productivity - The amount of plant growth, which reflects the amount of energy entering an ecosystem and available to all organisms

Production of food and fiber and use of water - Quantities of goods produced by ecosystems, such as crops, livestock, timber, fish, and water

Recreation and other services - Activities like swimming, hiking, biking, and hunting, and other services, including plant pollination and flood reduction

Download the report or just the summary and highlights from the World Wide Web at <http://www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems>. For additional information, contact Beverley.b.getzen@usace.army.mil 

Upcoming Meetings


Ellen Cummings – CECW-PD

The **World Watershed Summit** is being held in Washington, DC, at the JW Marriott Hotel near the White House on 30-31 October and 1 November 2002. This meeting is sponsored by the America's Clean Waters Foundation with support from various Federal agencies. This three-day forum will consist of a series of educational, work group and plenary sessions on technical and policy issues concerning international water resource protection issues. These sessions will be conducted or facilitated by national and international experts, and leaders in the field of water resource and watershed protection. The end product of this forum will be preparation and distribution of a report of forum proceedings and

recommendations. The reservation cut off date is 9 October 2002 and the registration fee for Government and non-profit organizations is \$400.00. For additional information see <http://www.yearofcleanwater.org/>.


The Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring “Emerging Technologies, Tools, and Techniques to Manage Our Coasts in the 21st Century”, 28-31 January 2003, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Cocoa Beach, Florida. This is a Technology Transfer Conference to examine current and emerging coastal and ocean management tools, techniques, and strategies. The Conference will be organized around four broad themes- assessment, management, restoration, and measuring results. Abstracts are due by 27 September 2002. For additional preliminary information see <http://www.tech-transfer-conference.com/>.

The “Inaugural National conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration” sponsored by Restore America’s Estuaries with support from several Federal Agencies will be held at the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor, Baltimore MD, 13-16 April 2003. The purpose of the Conference is to mobilize the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community to advance our knowledge, practice, pace and success in habitat restoration. For additional information check <http://www.estuaries.org/Conference/conference.html>.

The Association of State Flood Plain Managers’ annual conference will be 11-16 May 2003, at the Adams Mark hotel in St. Louis, MO. Basic registration prior to 16 April is \$380.00 for members and \$480 for non-members. Ten years after the “Great Midwest Flood” of 1993, the theme is lessons learned from past flood events. Abstracts must be submitted by 18 October 2002. Additional information may be found at <http://www.floods.org/stlouis>. 

Environmental Advisory Board

Norman Edwards - CECW-PD

The role of Executive Secretary for the Chief of Engineers’ Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) recently transitioned from Ms. Ellen Cummings to Mr. Norman Edwards. Of additional interest is the potential for the appointment of four new members. Should all be seated, it would bring the total number of EAB members to nine. Of further interest is that the next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2002 in West Palm Beach, Florida, and will focus on the Everglades. Information in regard to previous meetings of the Chief of Engineers’ Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) is available at the Hot Topics page <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/hot_topics/eab.htm>. For additional information contact Norman Edwards at 202-761-4559. 

Award Honors Those Putting Principles In Action

Bill Klesch – CECW-PG

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning to honor annually, a District and a Division whose programs best exemplify the Environmental Operating Principles by presenting them with the new Lt. Gen. Frederick J. Clarke Award for Leadership in Environmental Sustainability.

Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers announced, in August, the process and criteria for the award, which is to be presented to the winning district at the District Engineers Conference in January '03 and to the winning division at the Command Council Meeting in February '03.

District submittals for the award are to be forwarded to their respective divisions by Nov. 1, '02. Divisions will then select a nominee from their divisions and submit that package along with their own division package to headquarters by Nov. 22, '02. An Award Review Panel will select the winners.

The focus of the competition is on honoring those programs that showcase the Corps' dedication to planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of environmentally sustainable civil, military, regulatory, and other activities. The winning programs will be those that use the Project Management Business Process as a vehicle for implementing the Environmental Operating Principles.

Naming the award for the former Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General Clarke reflects his legacy of environmental leadership within the Corps of Engineers. Through his leadership and belief that the Corps should listen and respond constructively to its opponents, the Corps became one of the first federal water resource agencies to institutionalize environmental views. He also established the Environmental Advisory Board to provide guidance and advice to the Corps on environmental matters.

In a note to the Clarke family, Lieutenant General Flowers noted that it was fitting that as the Corps moves into the 21st century striving to achieve environmental sustainability as the overarching theme of its environmental operating principles that it should recognize one of its environmental pioneers by naming an award for him. Lieutenant General Clarke, who passed away earlier this year, served as Chief of Engineers from 1969 to 1973.

For more information about the awards, contact Dr. William L. Klesch CECW-P (202-761-4611)



HarborSym- Simulation Model for Deep Draft Navigation Improvements

Shana Heisey, Keith Hofseth- CEIWR-MD

The latest addition to the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) model family, which includes tools such as NavSym, Hydropower Repair and IWR-PLAN, is HarborSym, a simulation tool designed to analyze deep draft navigation improvements. Developed by a team comprised of members from the Galveston District, IWR, Planning and Management Consultants, Ltd., and RMM Technical Services, HarborSym is able to trace vessel transits into and out of a port. For each movement the program captures delay times- from those incurred waiting to enter the system, waiting at the dock to exit or anywhere within the harbor- and then calculates all accompanying delay costs. The system associated with the model encompasses a single harbor, which may include multiple docks or berthing areas. In order to capture delays throughout the system, HarborSym simulates all pertinent navigation features, such as docks, moorings, turning basins, holding basins, existing channel features and proposed channel features. A single route connects the various features, or nodes; this system of nodes and their connectors forms the link-node network, which is foundation of the analysis. A "supervisor" controls the model through its global knowledge- this supervisor is aware of the traffic rules and knows where objects are within the network. The model can predict potential violations on the transit restrictions and provides instructions on how the vessels should proceed.

As a data driven model, all calculations and assumptions are based upon data and information directly provided by the analyst. This includes vessel operating costs, commodity and fleet forecasts, and traffic rules. The benefit of the model is its ability to take given data and determine when transit rules will be violated and calculate the accompanying cost. This will automate tedious calculations while also providing a transparent approach to deep draft analysis that not only can be duplicated by reviewers but also can be applied to studies throughout the country.

The Galveston District presented the first of such studies. The Sabine-Neches Waterway, located in southeastern Texas, currently suffers from various navigation ailments, including one-way and daylight-only sailing restrictions caused by narrow channel widths. The harbor is extremely congested due to frequent movements by deep draft vessels carrying petroleum products via the Gulf of Mexico, and also due to the constant through traffic provided by shallow draft vessels transiting the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway. In order to manage the system's complexities the local Pilots Association has implemented strict traffic rules that result in frequent delays to the large deep draft vessels. HarborSym has allowed the Galveston District to make predictions on anticipated impacts caused by proposed channel improvements. Having an actual case study to use while developing the model has helped to keep the development team focused on implementing those features with the greatest real world applicability.

Key steps remain on the horizon for HarborSym. Advances will be made in developing systematic allocations of commodity forecasts and vessel fleet distributions. Also included in later versions of the model will be further development of a graphical user interface to standardize the data input process. As with the first version of the model, IWR would like to co-develop these future iterations of HarborSym in conjunction with a Corps district study. For more information on HarborSym or to propose a navigation study to be used in future developmental phases, please contact Shana Heisey (703-428-9088) or Keith Hofseth (703-428-6468). [📖](#)

Risk Analysis Application To Ecosystem Restoration Costs

Joy Muncy - CEIWR

Under the Corps Risk Analysis of Water Resources Investments Research Program, managed by the Institute for Water Resources, researchers are addressing the uncertainty in costs associated with ecosystem restoration projects. A couple of reports in this subject area have been completed under this research program. The first is ***Analyzing Uncertainty in the Costs of Ecosystem Restoration*** (Battelle, Seattle Research Center and Battelle Marine Sciences Laboratory), **IWR Report 00-R-3**. This report reviewed engineering techniques and management measures of various completed ecosystem projects. These measures were summarized in an effort to examine the factors that contributed to the differences between estimated costs and actual expenditures.


Risk and uncertainty-based analytical tools and methods were identified to address engineering input cost uncertainties in the second report from this subject area. A report has been prepared to address this: ***Ecosystem Restoration Cost Risk Assessment*** (Yoe, Planning and Management Consultants, Ltd.), **IWR Report 02-R-1**. Both of these reports can be found on IWR's Web site <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/>.

Ecosystem Restoration Cost Risk Assessment discusses how the Corps has long used contingencies in its cost estimates quite successfully. Traditional methods of contingency estimation did

not enable cost estimators or decision makers to understand the confidence associated with that contingency. With cost risk assessment, it is possible to select a contingency so you are 80, 90, 95, 99 or any other percent sure your cost estimate will not be exceeded.

How does one evaluate the costs of two or more alternative plans or two different designs when one is well known and the other(s) is an experimental design that relies on new technology? Which cost is more uncertain? Suppose the familiar project has a slightly higher single-point cost estimate. Should it be chosen? This sort of thing can happen quite often in ecosystem restoration projects.

By reducing and addressing the uncertainty about relevant information in the risk assessment step of a risk analysis, we can make better decisions in the risk management step of risk analysis than we would if we ignored that uncertainty. Risk assessment of costs will increase accuracy. Costs can be estimated with ranges, distributions, confidence intervals, and the like. Contingencies can be estimated with greater confidence using risk-based techniques.


If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact Joy Muncy, CEIWR, joy.d.muncy@usace.army.mil, (703) 428-6009. 

Napa River Fisheries Monitoring Program

Michael L. Dietl, Planning Division, Sacramento District

The Sacramento District is constructing the Napa River/Napa Creek Flood Protection Project (Project), which is designed to provide environmentally sustainable flood protection using structural and nonstructural methods including levee breaching and creation of marsh plains and flood plains. As part of this project, the Napa River Fisheries Monitoring Program (FMP) assesses fish assemblages in the Project area to determine their use of restored tidal wetlands, riverside marsh terraces, flood plains, and open water river habitats. The FMP has the following objectives: (1) document presence and relative abundance of fish species using restored and created habitats, (2) document life stages and seasonality of fish species in restored and created habitats, and (3) determine if correlations exist between collected fish species and environmental conditions at each sampling site.

The Sacramento District began larval fish sampling in March 2001 in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game using a 20-millimeter tow-net and in July 2001 in conjunction with Stillwater Sciences using a beach seine, otter trawl, purse seine, and fyke nets. Twenty-six fish species were detected in 2001 and 2002 including the Federally protected Sacramento splittail, Delta smelt, and Central Valley steelhead. Of the 26 species collected, 15 are native, and 11 are nonnative. Individuals of each species were collected in the restored or created habitats. A total of 6,922 juvenile and adult fish have been captured: nonnative fish totaled 3,006 with inland silversides (2,442) dominating, and native fish totaled 3,916 with Pacific herring (3,338) dominating. A record number (more than 3,000) larval Delta smelt were caught March through June 2001 in open river habitats. Sacramento splittail were collected in the restored wetland in the first month following levee breaching (June 2001).

The information collected is anticipated to validate the Project design objectives and to provide information to plan ahead for future environmentally sustainable projects and ecosystem restoration projects within the San Francisco Bay/Delta. Information on the FMP can be accessed at <http://www.napariverfishmonitoring.org>. For further information, e-mail Michael.L.Dietl@usace.army.mil. 


WCSC Correcting CY2000 Published Crude Oil Import Statistics

David Penick – CEIWR-NDC-C

The Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center (WCSC) changed its primary source of foreign waterborne import, export and in-transit data from the Census trade data to the Customs' manifest data beginning with calendar year 2000. WCSC contracted with the Journal of Commerce's Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) to supply the manifest data.


After publishing the CY 2000 statistics, WCSC discovered that PIERS had used an incorrect conversion factor for changing barrels of inbound crude petroleum to tons. WCSC has substituted the Department of Energy's (DOE) published conversion factors for crude oil based on country of origin to correct the PIERS data for crude petroleum imports and inbound in-transits. The corrections were applied to those PIERS records derived from Customs data where weight was not explicitly reported, but converted from barrels to tons. Many of the Customs records had weight recorded, in which case no correction was applied by WCSC.

The correction process resulted in a nationwide decrease of 7.1% in WCSC's published foreign inbound crude oil (from 521.6 million short tons to 484.6 million short tons). Individual ports were affected differently (from 0 to -13 percent).

PIERS acknowledged their error and will use the appropriate DOE conversion factors beginning with the CY 2002 data year. WCSC will correct the PIERS CY 2001 inbound crude oil data for Corps use and for the CY 2001 WCSC publications. Corrected CY 2000 statistics will be published on the WCSC web site (www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc/wcsc.htm) and corrections to the CY 2000 **Waterborne Commerce of the United States Parts 1-5** will be distributed as soon as possible. If anyone needs corrected data immediately contact Susan Hassett at 504-862-1453. 

Transportation Research Board Features Inland Waterways

Arlene Dietz - IWR


The National Academy of Sciences Transportation Research Board (TRB) July-August 2002 issue of TR NEWS features the U.S. Inland Waterway's role in the growth and development of the nation. Articles covering alternative approaches for budget decision making and discussion of a model to measure economic and social costs of intermodal traffic shifts should be of great interest to Corps managers, planners and economists. The issue may be obtained by contacting Joedy Cambridge, TRB staff, at 202-334-2167. Limited copies are being sent to each Corps commander. 

FY 2003 PROSPECT Courses

John P. Buckley –PDSC


A wide variety of technical and professional development courses are available through the USACE Proponent Sponsored Engineer Corps Training (PROSPECT) Program. Information about the FY03 program can be found online at: <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil> under *Class Schedules*.

To enroll, first discuss this with your supervisor and then contact your local training coordinator. Your training coordinator can guide you through the registration process and inform you of any deadlines applicable in your organization as well as all local procedures that you must follow to register.

If a course is full, you may request to be put on a waiting list and you will be informed when a space becomes available. The POC is John Buckley, John.P.Buckley@HND01.usace.army.mil. Telephone: 256-895-7431. 

Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
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The deadline for material for the next issue is **23 OCTOBER 2002**.

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